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De Francesco
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: De Francesco et al.

Serial No.: 10/085,476 Case No.: IT0002PCA

Art Unit:

Filed: February 27, 2002

Examiner:

For: METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN VITRO THE
RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE AND
TERMINAL NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE
ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY HEPATITIS C VIRUS
(HCV)Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231Amendment

Sir:

Please amend the specification by inserting an abstract on a separate page after the claims,
as follows:

--Abstract

The present invention relates to the molecular biology and virology of the hepatitis C virus (HCV). An object of the present invention is a method to reproduce *in vitro* the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity of HCV that makes use of sequences contained in the HCV NS5B protein.--

37 C.F.R. 1.8 Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

MAILED BY: *Shelia Flis*DATE: 4-23-02COPY OF PAPERS
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